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ABSTRACT:

A method of determining the status of a vehicle undergoing autobody repair having the steps of: (1) electronically transferring data on the status of a vehicle being repaired to a computer database, (2) searching the database for the vehicle, (3) identifying data on the status of the vehicle, and (4) transferring the status data of step (3) to a remote location. A system for practicing this method includes one or more repair shops in communication with a plurality of vehicle owners via an autobody repair Internet website. Each repair shop maintains a computer into which data on the status of vehicles being repaired are transferred via a portable data transfer device. Vehicle owners may access the status of their vehicles being repaired via the website.